

life, home, auto, and business services and today is the largest writer of farm insurance and the second largest writer of personal lines of insurance in the state. In Indiana, Farm Bureau Insurance is truly a "part of your life"—with offices in all of our 92 counties, and 1700 employees across the Hoosier state.

While the company has experienced significant growth and development, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has remained deeply committed to the community it serves. They have always believed that the strongest investment you can make for the future is to invest in young people, and their actions bear this out.

For 20 years, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance organized the eXcel Awards, a prestigious high school art competition that granted over \$700,000 in scholarships and encouraged the talent and creativity of high school artists and performers. They sponsor the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Mental Attitude Awards, honoring students who excel in athletic ability, leadership, mental attitude, and scholarship in all 39 IHSAA tournament sports. They have also made academics and safety a priority amongst our youth through initiatives like Top Scholar and the Teenage Driver Safety and Education Program. These programs reward young drivers with a \$1000 savings bond for completing safety training and provide insurance discounts for students for maintaining a B average respectively. In my district, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance helps supply healthy activities for our children by sponsoring little league and 4-H, and they are active participants in Holiday initiatives, adopting needy families and donating clothes, toys and foods.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance has assisted numerous families and individuals plan for the unexpected and has been a steadfast partner in our community. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance on their 75th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Thursday, October 15, 2009, I was unfortunately unable to be present for the last two series of recorded votes while I was attending to a matter related to my personal health.

I request that the record show that had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 786 (on ordering the previous question on the rule for H.R. 2442, H.Res. 830), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 787 (on agreeing to the resolution H.Res. 830, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2442), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 788 (the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair), and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 789 (on passage of the bill H.R. 2442, the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Expansion Act of 2009).

HONORING THE SURVIVING WORLD
WAR II VETERANS OF
OCCOQUAN, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor to the World War II veterans who currently reside in Occoquan, Virginia. Their service and sacrifice represent the height of American character; something to be honored and never forgotten.

In December of 1941, the United States entered a war that had already engulfed much of the rest of the world. Throughout the course of World War II, 16,000,000 Americans answered the call of duty and served in the armed forces. The support of the nation's war effort ended in the ultimate sacrifice for more than 300,000 of these brave Americans. They were sons, daughters, fathers and mothers putting the defense of their nation above all else.

The town of Occoquan is recognizing their service by honoring the surviving World War II veterans currently residing in Occoquan. So often our veterans return home and take up leadership roles in their communities. This group, which includes former Occoquan mayors, town council members and planning commissioners, is no exception. These individuals are a living testament to the strength and enduring nature of America's citizenry. Occoquan's surviving World War II veterans:

Mr. Richard H. Bell, United States Army
Mr. Edwin S. Clarke, United States Navy
Mr. Robert Lehto, United States Navy
Mr. Frank McKenzie, United States Navy
Mr. James F. Phelps, United States Marine Corps

Ms. June Randolph, United States Navy
Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the World War II veterans of Occoquan, Virginia. We recognize their contribution to honor the importance of their experience to the American story. To forget their sacrifice and the immeasurable cost of war is to do peace a disservice and bind ourselves to indefinite conflict.

COMMEMORATING THE NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, writing is a daily practice for millions of Americans, but few people notice how integral writing has become to life in the 21st century. People now write more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes; and writing is increasingly essential for all types of occupations. Newly developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media and young people are now leading the way in new forms of composition.

Writing has enormous power. It allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. Effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community. We must find ways to help our

students tell their stories—to communicate with their neighbors around the globe, in a world that is getting smaller and smaller. We must help our students put their thoughts into words, and hopefully, into action.

As an educator for more than 30 years, I know the value of a quality education and its importance to our children's future. In order for our Nation's children to get the education they deserve and require to become the leaders of tomorrow, they need the very best teachers and educators. Not only as leaders in education, but also as leaders in the community, English teachers are preparing our next generation.

To draw attention to the remarkable variety of writing we engage in and to help connect writers from all walks of life, the National Council of Teachers of English, NCTE, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors the importance of writing by celebrating a National Day on Writing on October 20, 2009. NCTE has developed the National Gallery of Writing, a digital archive of samples, that exhibits how and why Americans are writing every day. The gallery is accessible to all through a free, searchable website that will be launched on the National Day on Writing.

I introduced a resolution to recognize the National Day on Writing to acknowledge the enormous power of writing—how it allows people in every walk of life, in every kind of work, and at every age to generate and share ideas with others. The resolution calls on the House of Representatives to recognize the National Day on Writing and encourages submissions to the National Gallery of Writing. Today my thanks go out to the NCTE and their many national and local partners for facilitating the National Day on Writing. As we celebrate the National Day on Writing, I hope my colleagues will participate and submit entries to the gallery.

HONORING JASMINE LYNN OF SPELMAN COLLEGE, CLASS OF 2012

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jasmine Lynn, a rising star, a wonderful daughter, and a successful student who was the victim of a senseless tragedy.

A native of Kansas City, Missouri, Jasmine attended the Lincoln College Preparatory Academy, where she was an active student, athlete, musician, and leader. Even though she was a member of the ROTC, the varsity basketball team, and the high school marching band, Jasmine found time to shine as a student. Her intelligence and academic success won her an opportunity to attend Spelman College in Atlanta, making her the first in her family to receive a college education. At Spelman, Jasmine continued to excel with a 3.8 GPA and intended to focus her academic program around psychology and pre-law studies. Jasmine had just completed a summer internship at Cerner Corp over the summer and had bought her first car. This accomplished young lady had a bright and promising future.

On September 3, the life of Jasmine Lynn was cut down by a stray bullet as she was